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STATE SENATOR

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Senator LeMahieu's Response to Justice Ann Walsh Bradley

Madison – Senator Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg), Chair of the Senate Elections and Local Government Committee, issued the following statement in response to Justice Ann Walsh Bradley's letter to Governor Walker about veteran IDs:

"As someone who heard arguments on voter ID in 2014, Justice Ann Walsh Bradley is fully aware of permissible IDs under the law. Instead of trying to score political points from the bench, Justice Ann Walsh Bradley could have helped her uncle obtain a free state ID over the past two years.

I wholeheartedly agree that we should make it easier for veterans to vote by making veteran IDs an acceptable form of voter ID. That's why I included this provision in Senate Bill 295. Additionally, SB 295 allows Election Registration Officials to register residents at Residential Care Facilities and allows residents at those facilities to use their intake documents as a proof of residency.

It is unfortunate that Justice Ann Walsh Bradley chose to use the clout of her nonpartisan position, her state letterhead, and a staff member's time in a political ploy rehashing a piece of legislation that is settled law. If Justice Ann Walsh Bradley feels the need to help fix this issue, she could get behind SB 295 and applaud Republicans for supporting a veteran ID fix.

The veteran ID provision of SB 295 will go into effect as soon as the bill is signed into law. Therefore, it's likely to be in place for the April 5th election."

Senator Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) chairs the Senate Elections and Local Government Committee and serves the 9th Senate District, which includes portions of Calumet, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties.

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